

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

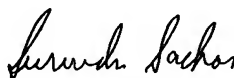
By the present Preliminary Amendment a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted.

Further, by the present preliminary amendment claims 1-19 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 20-38 are presented for examination. New claims 20-38 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new claims 20-38 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-19.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SNS:smi

I:\ATTY\SNS\266130US-PR.DOC